

REMARKS

As noted above, the present application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/135,242, filed April 30, 2002, the specification of which is incorporated herein in full by reference.

During prosecution of the parent application, an office action dated April 23, 2003 (the "office action"), rejected original independent claims 1-4, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21-24, 29, 32-34, 37 and 42 as being anticipated by Doumaux (U.S. 6412935). In the last office action of the parent case the Examiner objected to original claims 5-9, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 25-28, 30, 31, 35, 36, and 38-41 indicating that they contained subject matter that would be allowable if combined with the elements and limitations of their respective base independent claims and any intervening claims.

In the interest of furthering the prosecution of the parent case the Applicant placed the objected to subject matter into condition for immediate allowance and cancelled those claims which stood rejected in the office action. The present preliminary amendment addresses additional allowable subject matter as supported by the specification of the parent case as originally filed.

In the office action of the parent case, the Examiner referenced Doumaux as illustrating:

a fixer printhead for depositing drops of a fixer onto the deposited drops of the colored ink (Fig. 4, element FIXER); and
an overcoat printhead for depositing drops of an overcoat onto the deposited drops of the colored ink (column 3, line 46: suggesting the using of two overcoat fixer fluid pens).

The Doumaux reference appears to describe "a method of applying a fixer fluid overcoat to a porous semi-porous medium printed in an inkjet printer." (See Column 1, lines 46 through 48).

In column 3, line 46, the Doumaux reference recites:

If two overcoat fixer fluid pens are used, no additional swaths are required (it is presumed that the fixer fluid pen(s) resides at the one (or both) ends of the pen cartridge).

From the Applicant's review of the Doumaux reference, the Applicant is unable to locate a description of a fixer printhead for depositing drops of a fixer, and a separate overcoat printhead for depositing drops of an overcoat. That is, Doumaux does not describe an ink printhead for depositing drops of a colored ink, a fixer printhead for depositing drops

of a fixer, and an overcoat printhead for depositing drops of an overcoat such that three different materials are deposited on the medium.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claims 1, 15, 21, 29, 32, 33, 37, and 42, currently amended, each recite an ink printhead for depositing drops of a colored ink, a fixer printhead for depositing drops of a fixer, and an overcoat printhead for depositing drops of an overcoat such that three different materials are deposited on the medium. Since the Doumaux reference does not contain each and every element and limitation of Applicant's independent claims 1, 15, 21, 29, 32, 33, 37, and 42, these claims, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are distinguishable from and allowable over the Doumaux reference.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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